financially and otherwise, to the people, to have courts at different localities than to have more than one court in the same place ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : That is a big question which cannot be considered now. It is also a new question.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : The answer is that it is not desirable to establish a District Court at Mavelikara since it is only 32 miles from Quilon. The implication in the answer leads me to this supplementary question.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : It may be so. You may put a new question about it later on.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : I think it arises since it is relevant to the other question.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : You want the Government to answer the general question as to whether it is not desirable to open courts in different places instead of having more than one court in the same locality. I do not think that this question arises from your question.

Manufacture of Cocoanut Palm Jaggery.

259. **MR. G. RAMAN MENON** (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : (*a*) Are the Government aware that the people of Karunagapalli, Kartikapalli, Mavelikara and other cocoanut-producing taluks are put to very great loss owing to the embargo placed by the Excise Department on the tapping of cocoanut trees for sweet toddy for the manufacture of jaggery ?

(*b*) Are the Government aware that the people of these taluks are being disastrously impoverished owing to the spread of serious cocoanut tree diseases ?

(*c*) Are the Government aware that cocoanut jaggery is a very health-giving and valuable food product and that the practical discontinuance of the manufacture of this food product brought about by the Excise policy of the Government has disastrously affected the health and finances of the people of these taluks ?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to encourage the manufacture of cocoanut jaggery in these taluks by removing the embargo and granting free licenses for tapping cocoanut trees for the manufacture of jaggery, in consideration of the fact that a tree tax is already being levied on cocoanut trees ?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) The Excise Department does not place any embargo on the tapping of cocoanut trees for sweet toddy for the manufacture of jaggery. All *bona fide* applicants are granted licenses for drawing sweet toddy.

(*b*) The Government will enquire.

(*c*) The manufacture of jaggery from cocoanut toddy did not exist to any appreciable extent ; and if what existed has now been discontinued, it may be due to the failure of the industry from an economic point of view.

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[Mr. P. N. Krishna Pillai.]

(*d*) The Member is referred to the answer to part (*a*) above.

Reduction of Work Establishments in the Public Works Department.

260. **MR. G. RAMAN MENON** (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : (*a*) Are not the staff and work establishments of the Public Works Department designed for having the work of maintenance of roads, etc., conducted through departmental agency and not through contractors?

(*b*) As most of the works are now done through the agency of contractors, cannot the staff and work establishments be considerably reduced and the savings spent on works?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) No. They are intended for the supervision of works conducted both through departmental and contract agencies.

(*b*) No since supervision is all the more necessary in the case of works done through contract agency.

Separation of Investigation and Works Sections in the Public Works Department.

261. **MR. G. RAMAN MENON** (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : (*a*) Will the Government be pleased, in the interests of more efficient work, to separate the investigation from the works section in the Public Works Department under the same controlling officer, *viz.*, the Chief Engineer, as in British India?

(*b*) Are the Government aware that the present strength of the controlling, executive and supervising officers in the Public Works Department is more than sufficient for effecting this separation without additional expense?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) The matter will be considered.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

Pass System in the General Hospital.

262. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they are aware of the 'pass system' introduced in the General Hospital; and

(*b*) if so, with what object?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The objects with which the 'pass system' was introduced are—

(1) To prevent people from disturbing the patients as it is a recognised principle in treatment that those who are ill should be kept as quiet as possible and free from all bodily and mental worry.

(2) To allow the hospital staff to examine and nurse the patients without let or hindrance.

(3) To prevent theft of hospital articles and of patients' belongings.

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